

SENATE BILL 54

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C8

2003 Regular Session
(31r0334)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Environmental Matters --

Introduced by **Senators Frosh and Ruben**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Pinhole Leaks in Copper Plumbing**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Pinhole Leaks in Copper
4 Plumbing; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing
5 for the appointment of the chairman of the Task Force; providing for the staffing
6 of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving
7 compensation for serving on the Task Force; authorizing a member of the Task
8 Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring a certain report
9 by a certain date; providing for the termination of the Task Force; and generally
10 relating to the Task Force to Study Pinhole Leaks in Copper Plumbing.

11 WHEREAS, More than 80% of domestic and commercial water pipes are made
12 of copper; and

13 WHEREAS, Pinhole leaks in copper water pipes can cause extensive, costly
14 damage to the buildings in which the pipes are located; and

1 WHEREAS, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has received ~~five~~
 2 ~~thousand~~ more than 4,600 complaints from citizens in Montgomery and Prince
 3 George's counties about pinhole leaks in copper water pipes; and

4 WHEREAS, The incidence of pinhole leaks is ~~unusually high in certain~~
 5 ~~communities~~ higher in some areas than in other areas; and

6 WHEREAS, Claims for damages caused by pinhole leaks can contribute to
 7 increased premiums or cancellation of homeowners' insurance policies; now, therefore,

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 9 MARYLAND, That:

10 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Pinhole Leaks in Copper Plumbing.

11 (b) (1) The Task Force consists of the following members:

12 ~~(1)~~ (i) the Chairman of the Washington Suburban Sanitary
 13 Commission, or the Chairman's designee;

14 ~~(2)~~ (ii) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
 15 Secretary's designee;

16 ~~(3)~~ (iii) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

17 ~~(4)~~ (iv) the Commissioner of the Maryland Insurance Administration,
 18 or the Commissioner's designee;

19 ~~(5)~~ (v) two representatives designated by the Maryland Association of
 20 Counties;

21 ~~(6)~~ (vi) one faculty member from the University System of Maryland
 22 with expertise in the engineering and design of plumbing and piping, designated by
 23 the Chancellor; and

24 ~~(7)~~ (vii) the following members appointed by the Governor:

25 ~~(i)~~ 1. ~~one representative of the copper plumbing industry~~
 26 master plumber who is a resident of Maryland, is licensed by the State Board of
 27 Plumbing, and has expertise in the installation and replacement of copper plumbing;

28 ~~(ii)~~ 2. one person with expertise in copper corrosion; ~~and~~

29 ~~(iii)~~ 3. two consumer representatives from areas of the State
 30 served by different water suppliers;

31 4. one representative of a Maryland condominium
 32 association; and

33 5. one representative of the Copper Development Association.

1 (2) The Task Force shall invite participation of a representative of the
 2 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with expertise in water chemistry, as
 3 designated by the EPA Administrator.

4 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

5 (d) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall staff the
 6 Task Force.

7 (e) A member of the Task Force:

8 (1) may not receive compensation; but

9 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
 10 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

11 (f) The Task Force shall:

12 (1) determine the extent, patterns, and trends of pinhole leaks in
 13 Maryland;

14 (2) investigate the possible causes of pinhole leaks in copper plumbing,
 15 ~~including water chemistry, water treatment practices, water additives, copper~~
 16 ~~plumbing design and installation practices, including: water chemistry requirements~~
 17 ~~adopted by the EPA; water treatment practices; water additives; copper plumbing~~
 18 ~~design, manufacturing, and installation practices; and copper plumbing cleaning and~~
 19 ~~lining practices;~~

20 ~~(2)~~ (3) investigate the effect of pinhole leaks in copper plumbing on
 21 homeowners' insurance coverage; and

22 ~~(3)~~ (4) make recommendations regarding possible remedies for pinhole
 23 leaks in copper plumbing and possible steps for Maryland residents to take if they
 24 experience a problem with pinhole leaks.

25 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
 26 General Assembly on or before December 31, ~~2003~~ 2004.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
 28 effect June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~7~~ 1 year and 8 months and,
 29 at the end of ~~December 31, 2003~~ January 31, 2005, with no further action required by
 30 the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

